

~~SECRET~~25X1A2g
[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

reported that Tellez Reyes was armed and was seen to shoot at least one person, with believed fatal results. This incident may well affect the moral and legal position of the government, since Tellez Reyes was elected to the House of Deputies on the PUSR ticket. The Minister of Interior has ordered that MNR candidates Herman Siles Zuazo, Mario Diez de Medina, and Federico Alvarez Plata be tried in criminal court for their part in the riot.

7. It is the general belief in the MNR that Minister of Public Works, Guillermo Gutierrez Vea Iburguia fired on the MNR demonstrators with a machine gun from the window of a government building. Gutierrez is a Partido Izquierda Revolucionaria (PIR) adherent.
8. During the fighting in the Plaza Murillo a number of homemade dynamite bombs were set off. This explosive had been brought from the mines by Juan Lechin's miners. The automobile of the Director General of Internal Revenue was destroyed by one such bomb.
9. A car belonging to the Prefect of La Paz was set loose down a street leading from the plaza. This was reportedly done by MNR-Villarroelista supporters Jorge Pabon and Oscar Altamirano. The car struck a group of people, killing two and injuring eight.
10. The violence spread from the main plaza to the Chijini district, where an MNR mob attacked and captured the Lima Sub-station, killing one policeman and injuring others. The sub-station was later recaptured by the government. MNR fighters also attempted to take the Chijini Section police station, but were repelled.
11. As a result of these incidents, the state of siege was declared again in force throughout the country.
12. Sporadic firing continued throughout the night.
13. At 11:30 a.m. on 2 May striking factory workers entered the Plaza Murillo and attacked police stationed there. Gunfire ensued and at least one person was killed and several injured. The plaza was cleared by the police.
14. The government took an extremely grave view of the situation at this point because of the mass demonstration of factory workers scheduled for 3:00 p.m., 2 May. However, as described above, Quiroz was induced to go on the government radio and pacify the workers.
15. By 3 May heavy reinforcements of army troops had been brought up to the Alto just outside of La Paz and all police positions were heavily manned. Consequently, no serious trouble developed when the funerals of the various victims were held on the afternoon of 3 May.
16. A meeting of MNR leaders was called for 2:30 a.m. 3 May, at which Mario Diez de Medina, among others, was present. There was general agreement that the MNR was insufficiently armed to attack the government forces head-on at the present stage of things.
17. The MNR operated a clandestine radio station for several days, using broadcast frequencies 1550 and 1370 and shortwave bands 25m and 49m. Government efforts to locate the station have been without success, and the transmitter is moved frequently.

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

18. The number of casualties has been reported in the newspapers as from 8 to 10 dead and 75 to 85 wounded. However, these figures are believed to reflect a government effort to minimize the bloodshed. Casualties were distributed among police, PUSR, MNR, PIR, factory workers, and bystanders, with the police probably suffering worst.
19. This resort to violence on the part of the MNR immediately after a victory at the polls has caused considerable surprise and comment in La Paz. However, as previously reported, the MNR planned to resort to violence in the event of a victory at the polls in La Paz, since this was interpreted to mean that sufficient popular support existed to make mob action successful.***** This is still the opinion of the high command in La Paz, the problem now being to obtain sufficient arms.

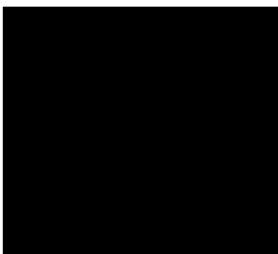
*Cf.

**Cf.

***Cf.

****Cf.

*****Cf.



25X1A2g

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~